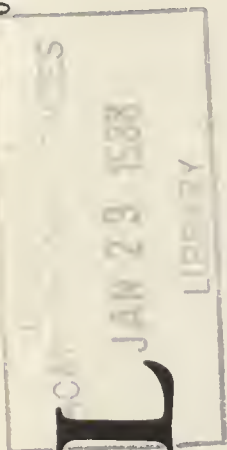


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THE GULL

Golden Gate Audubon Society

Berkeley, California

Volume 70

Number 2

February 1988



BIRDING SCANDINAVIA

From the ancient Swedish island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea, a powerful member of the Hanscatic League during the early Middle Ages, where Barnacle Geese are found, to the Norwegian Island of Runde in the North Sea, home to one of the famous seabird colonies of Europe, our February program will give us a broad cross-section of the birds and gorgeous landscape of Scandinavia, including the beautiful Norwegian fjords.

Traveling during last June at a time when migrants were flowing into Scandinavia in large numbers, **George Peyton** visited some of the top birding spots in Norway and Sweden, among them a busy bird observatory and banding station in Southern Gotland when warblers and small migrants were piling in, a special study area in the Norwegian ski country where Boreal Owls were being observed,, and a trip to some of the highest Norwegian mountains where species such as Bluethroat were breeding. The Island of Runde was the breeding colony for many thousands of sea birds, including Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill and Gannet, as well as Great Skua and passerines such as Ring Ouzel and Twite.

Reserve Thursday, Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. for this exciting program at Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, in Berkeley.

—PROGRAM COMMITTEE

GGAS SUES AGAIN!

Many of you are well acquainted with Arrowhead Marsh Regional Park in San Leandro Bay. This wonderful, approximately 50 acre tidal marsh, home to the endangered California Clapper rail, is the remnant of a 2000 acre (in 1915) tidal marsh in San Leandro Bay. In 1931, 1600 acres were left and these were declared a State Game Refuge. Unfortunately, the legislation creating this Refuge was weak and did not prevent further filling. Since 1931 nearly all of this Refuge's marshes were filled, for the Oakland Airport and other uses, such as the Oakland Coliseum. In San Leandro Bay there now remain only 76 acres of these historic marshes. Obviously, waterfowl, shorebirds and other marsh wildlife suffered a tremendous setback through the loss of 90% of their habitat.

(Continued on page 19)

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Sunday, February 7—San Leandro Bay Regional Shoreline, Oakland. See January Gull for details.

Wednesday, February 10—Mini-trip to Lafayette Reservoir. See January Gull for Details.

Saturday, February 13—Lake Merced, San Francisco. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the south end of Sunset Blvd. in the Lake Merced Circle. This is a good time to see wintering grebes and ducks. If you take the #72 bus be sure to get off at Ocean Ave., because the next stop is Winton Dr. about one-half mile away. Lunch is optional for this half-day trip. Leader Aileen Pierson (563-8431).

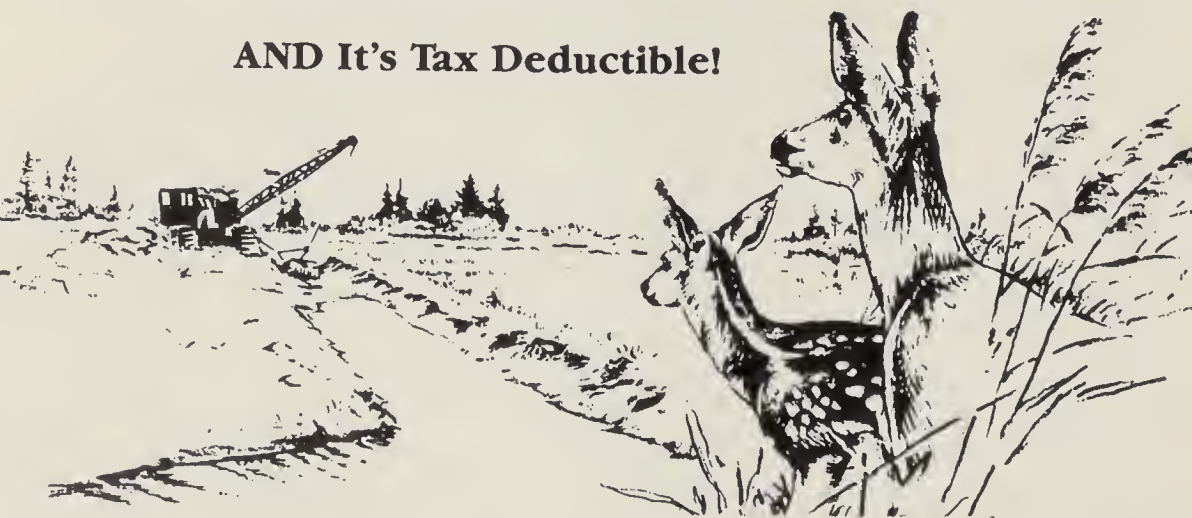
Sunday, February 14—Lake Merritt, Oakland. Meet at **9 a.m.** at Grand Ave. and El Embarcadero by the Greek Colonade. Trip ends at noon. Bring binoculars, field guide and scope if you have them. This is an excellent opportunity to observe wintering ducks and grebes at close range and to study their

field identification. This trip is recommended for beginners, and is wheelchair accessible. There is a restaurant at the lake for brunch after birding. Rain cancels trip. Leader: Joan Zawaski (433-1700 days, 530-2427 eve.).

Wednesday, March 9—Mini-trip to Mitchell Canyon. We will meet at **9:30 a.m.** Take Hwy. 24 through the Caldecott Tunnel. At Walnut Creek take Ygnacio Valley Rd. Go approximately 8 miles, turn right onto Clayton Rd. Go about a mile, make a right turn onto Mitchell Canyon Rd. and proceed to the parking lot at the end of the road. This is a delightful area with easy streamside walking and many songbirds. Wear shoes suitable for walking in mud, and bring your lunch. Rain cancels trip. Leader: Anna Wilcox (351-9301).

Saturday, March 12—San Francisco Bird Blitz. In past years participants reported over 100 species within the City limits. This year's mad dash to build the biggest "City Day List"

AND It's Tax Deductible!



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possible will begin at 7 a.m. sharp at the parking lot at the foot of Van Ness Ave. From there we will caravan to other sites including Golden Gate Park, Sutro Baths, Lake Merced and Candlestick Point. Bring lunch and liquids. We will bird until dusk when we will adjourn to a nearby restaurant where for a minimal cost we can avoid going home to cook dinner. Leader: Alan Hopkins (664-0983).

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader, or need information regarding a trip, call Russ Wilson (524-2399) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

SUIT

(continued from page 17)

Last year GGAS sued the Oakland Airport in order to preserve 180 acres of seasonal wetlands (a replacement habitat for a small part of those lost). This most of you know about and have supported that suit financially with wonderful generosity and concern.

But now a new part of San Leandro Bay is being filled, again by the Port of Oakland. Next to Arrowhead Marsh is an area called the Distribution Center. This is the large flat area that you see to your right as you drive along the Park road to Arrowhead Marsh. This 110 acre parcel was, again, once marsh. The Port started to fill this area in the 60's. The filling, however, was not completed. The area continued to pond during the winter, some areas remained wet all year long and some had tidal action. In all, the Distribution Center Site acted as a successful seasonal wetland and supported a large number of waterfowl, up to 4000 a day in peak season. Last year, soon after

our lawsuit was initiated, the Port once again began to fill the Distribution Center, for the first time in about 5 years. GGAS could not let that area be destroyed. We first complained to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers whose regulatory powers control this kind of filling. In fact, the Corps is instructed to prevent filling of wetlands by the Clean Water Act. We also notified the EPA of our concern. The Corps took no action. Filling continued. In January of 1987 the EPA issued an Order requesting the Port to cease filling and to restore the wetlands it had destroyed. The Port continued to fill, and sued the EPA claiming that the area was not under their jurisdiction. On a very controversial and debatable technicality the EPA rescinded its order and these wetlands were without protection (not that the EPA's order had deterred the Port).

With all administrative remedies denied, we had no choice, but to take the Port and the Corps and the EPA to court to demand that the Port stop filling and that the agencies fulfill their obligations under law. It was truly a question of life and death for San Leandro Bay; we chose life.

On October 16, 1987 we filed an Intent to Sue notice with the Port of Oakland, the Corps and the EPA, as the Clean Water Act requires in a citizen's complaint. The 60 days having passed with no remorse being shown by the Port, we filed suit in Federal Court on December 21, 1987. Joining us are the Save San Francisco Bay Association, and the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund has agreed to help us in this case.

Shortly after our 60 day notice was filed, the Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a Cease and Desist Order to the Port concerning these same

wetlands. Again, the Port is evidently ignoring this order, although the advent of the rainy season has put a temporary stop to the filling.

All agencies agree on the wetlands nature of the site. Our suit, if successful, will require the Corps and the EPA to protect these wetlands under the Clean Water Act. It will also require the Port to restore the wetlands it has already destroyed. We believe that our case is very strong. We fully expect to win. With so little habitat left we cannot lose anymore or the central bay's skies and shores will be sadly empty.

We will need financial help to see this thing through. You have all been supportive concerning our first lawsuit. It is very difficult to ask again, but we must. So if you can, please send us a donation. If you mark it, "Distribution Center", we'll know it is for this lawsuit. Thank you all, and may the year bring hope and encouragement to us all.

—ARTHUR FEINSTEIN



The Western Lily
(one of 252 native
California species at risk)

CHRISTMAS COUNT OAKLAND

Oakland birders successfully counted "all" the birds on Sunday, December 20, finding rarities and good old stand-bys, birds which should have left, and interesting invaders. Unusual ducks were plentiful, with good numbers of Barrow's Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, and a Blue-winged Teal to liven up the day. The Oakland Airport graciously allowed counters on their turf for six hours, and the rewards were an Oldsquaw and a Eurasian Wigeon in addition to numerous other birds. But the highlight at the count-down dinner was the report of an **Emperor Goose** which was found at Alameda South Shore. This beautiful goose remained around for many to see after the count, and the finder of the bird on count day, Bob Jarrell, was awarded a prize at the dinner, *The Owls of North America*. (a complete tally will appear in the next issue. Total number of species: 173.

GGAS BIRD SEED SALE

Saturday, March 26, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. we will again hold Seed Sales in Berkeley and San Francisco. The order form will be included in *The GULL* for March. The usual excellent selection of seed will be augmented by feeders.

SAN FRANCISCO

The San Francisco count was held on a very rainy Monday, December 28. But this didn't stop either participants or birds. The highest number of species ever for this count, **168**, was found by searching every wet corner of the City. Highlights included many western warblers such as Yellow Hermit, Black-throated Gray, a Yellow-headed Blackbird at the Zoo, Swamp Sparrows, and an Oldsquaw. Red Crossbills were everywhere. Final tallies will appear in *The GULL* for March.

IS ROSSMOOR FOR THE BIRDS?

At least one resident, Don Yoder (he is responsible for the Rossmoor Bluebird house trail), is doing yeoman service in behalf of birds there. Alert to habitat needs and aware of destructive "improvements", his voice is raised in an effort to save underbrush and tolerate dead trees as long as they can stand on their own. Both cover and vantage points for perching are being removed at an alarming rate. Columnist George Vierhus writing in the Dec. 2 edition of *Rossmoor News* gives him credit for his efforts to restrain the cleanup and to urge replanting with trees and shrubs hospitable to birds and other wildlife. Some apparently favor the cleanup to make finding lost golf balls easier.

BLUEBIRD TRAILS

Tim and Sarah Gordon phoned to remind *The GULL* that Wildcat Canyon in the East Bay Regional Park has a Bluebird house route that they mind.



The Bull Trout
(one of 252 native
California species at risk)

OBSERVATIONS November 25 through December 29

Major storms moved through the area in December providing above average rainfall intermixed with very cold temperatures. Christmas Bird Counters, undaunted by the weather, combed varied habitats from Pt. Reyes to Monterey, and east to the Sierra foothills, from December 18 through the period, providing several surprises along the way.

SE Farallon News

News from SE Farallon reached me too late for inclusion last month. A few of the highlights from there Oct. 23–Nov. 21 follow: from two to five Northern Saw-whet Owls arrived this fall (there are just about twelve records for the island). A **Pine Warbler** Nov. 18–19 was a fourth island record. A **Wilson's Warbler** Nov. 5 was considered late (but see data from the Christmas Bird Counts—hereafter CBC—this column). A **Summer Tanager** arrived Oct. 28, and fifteen **Red Crossbills** were present Nov. 4–5. (Thanks to Point Reyes Bird Observatory for SE Farallon Island information.)

Fulmars through Ducks

Only eleven Northern Fulmars were found during the period on a Monterey pelagic trip Nov. 28 (SJ). One Flesh-footed Shearwater was seen on the same trip. One Buller's Shearwater on a Monterey pelagic trip Dec. 5 (KN) was late. An unusually large concentration of Black-vented Shearwaters was 1400 seen on a Monterey pelagic Nov. 28 (SJ). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel in the ocean off Santa Cruz was a nice present for the Santa Cruz CBC Dec. 19 (*fide* BLaB). An immature **Brown Booby** was in the vicinity of the Monterey Aquarium Dec. 3 and seen again from Pt. Pinos later the same day (*fide* DR).

The largest group of Cattle Egrets was fourteen at Pescadero Marsh Dec. 26 (PJM); five other local county locations had from one to three Cattle Egrets during the period (mob).

A Trumpeter Swan was seen and heard calling along Highway 12 west of Interstate 5 Dec. 26 (MJL). An **Emperor Goose** was the star of the show for the Oakland CBC, Dec. 20 (RJ, AHJ, LRF, et al.). It delighted many observers through the end of the period by hugging the Alameda South Shore at high tide and travelling across the channel to Bay Farm Island during low tide. The bird was apparently in the vicinity at least one day prior to the CBC (WS), but word did not reach the compiler until Dec. 21. A Eurasian form of the Green-winged Teal was seen at the north end of Bay Farm Island Dec. 26 (LP). Thirteen Eurasian Wigeons, almost eighty Barrow's Goldeneye and seventy-three Hooded Mergansers were present locally during the period. A group of 64 Hooded Mergansers at Marina Lagoon in Foster city Dec. 4 (PJM) was an exceptionally high count. Although I will not be

reporting these ducks and locations in detail this winter because of space limitations, I would appreciate continued information on date, location and numbers. This information is stored on computer and submitted to *American Birds* editors, providing valuable data on distribution. Nine Harlequin Ducks were found: a male in Bolinas Lagoon Nov. 29–Dec. 7 (KH, RA); three at Ano Nuevo Point Nov. 29 (DL, AS), with up to five there Dec. 25 (MDa); two at Drake's Estero Dec. 19 (*fide* DWm); and one in Monterey Bay Dec. 28 (*fide* BBrr). Nine Oldsquaws were present locally during December. One on a private ranch in Napa Co. Dec. 8–13 (BDP) was unusual inland.

Rails through Murrelets

In a marsh at the head of Tomales Bay, on Dec. 21, two observers had just viewed two Black Rails get eaten when they noticed an egret spear another small rail. This rail showed some of the significant field marks of the elusive **Yellow Rail**! When the observers attempted to get closer to the feast/destruction (depending upon the point of view), the egret flushed further away, continuing to shake the bird in its bill.

Eventually, however, the egret obliged the scientific community by dropping the bird (too full of Black Rails to tuck in another?) and the lifeless specimen, a **Yellow Rail**, indeed, was retrieved (SNGH, PP). One wonders how small-rail populations can survive when natural predation of this magnitude is coupled with human destruction of habitat.

A single Sandhill Crane was seen south of Pine Gulch Creek Dec. 11 (PA), and the one at Hayward Regional Shoreline remained at least to Dec. 20 (RJR). The largest group of Lesser

Golden-Plovers was ten at Lawson's Landing Dec. 5 (RHa). A single individual at Lodi Sewage Ponds Nov. 27 remained at least through Dec. 7 (MP, EDi), where two wintered last year. Mountain Plovers were back in San Benito Co. with fifty-five seen from Frazer Lake Road Dec. 23 (KVV). The Rock Sandpiper at the jetty in Princeton Harbor was still present to Dec. 27 (MCM). Single Pomarine Jaegers were seen from shore Dec. 19: one off Limantour Beach (Pt. Reyes CBC, *fide* DWm), and one from Pillar Point (Crystal Springs CBC, PJM). Three others were found on the Ano Nuevo CBC Dec. 26 (PJM).

One immature Franklin's Gull at Stockton Sewage Ponds was still being seen through Dec. 11 (DGY). An adult Little Gull was at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Dec. 11–17 (DGY, AGe)—the ninth consecutive winter for the species at this location. A Glaucous Gull was reported north of the Davis Dump Dec. 3 (GEw). The only Black-legged Kittiwakes reported were three on a Monterey pelagic trip Nov. 28 (SJ), and two on a whale trip to Pt. Reyes peninsula Dec. 27 (ToJ). Two Ancient Murrelets were off Abbott's Lagoon Dec. 19 for the Pt. Reyes CBC (*fide* DWm), and other Ancient Murrelets were noted on a whale trip to the Pt. Reyes peninsula Dec. 27 (ToJ).

Landbirds

Two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers turned up in Marin Co. in December: one at the Olema Ranch Campground Dec. 18 (RS) and the other at the traditional spot, the Cheese Factory Dec. 22–27 (DWm, BDP). A **Hammond's Flycatcher** at the mouth of Vision Creek, Inverness Dec. 14 stayed around at least through Dec. 23 for the Pt.

Reyes CBC (RS, *fide* DWm). Another **Hammond's Flycatcher** was found in Redwood Regional Park on the Oakland CBC (ASH). An invasion year? A Western Flycatcher was near Branciforte Road in Santa Cruz Dec. 19 (*fide* BLaB). An **Eastern Phoebe** was found on the Benecia CBC Dec. 22 (*fide* RbL). A Tropical Kingbird was at Lake Merced Dec. 20–28 (AS, PJM). Two Mountain Chickadees made a trip to the coast at Santa Cruz Dec. 19 (BSH). The Bendire's Thrasher at Lodi was last reported Dec. 7 (EDi). Christmas Bird Counts in northern California find *Phainopepla* more regularly than this editor was aware of (back to Grinnell & Miller). They were not unusual in Butte, Yolo, Napa, Solano, and Contra Costa Cos. this December, and at least three were found along Livermore Mines Road Nov. 27 (RJR) where they traditionally summer. A Northern Shrike at Inverness Park Dec. 4 (LJP) was seen at least through Dec. 19 (WG, et al.).

A Solitary Vireo was at the green bridge south of Pt. Reyes Station for the CBC Dec. 19 (*fide* DWm). Another Solitary Vireo, plumbeous form, was found at Kewlin Park, Modesto Dec. 22 (HMR). A Tennessee Warbler was spotted at San Pedro Co. Park, Pacifica Dec. 19 (SSm, *fide* RSTh). Nashville Warblers became downright "abundant" with one at Vision Creek, Tomales Bay Dec. 19 (*fide* DWm), two at Pilarcitos Creek, Dec. 19 (*fide* RSTh), one at South Rodeo Gulch Park, Santa Cruz Dec. 19 (CKf, *fide* BLaB), three near a residence in Berkeley Dec. 21 (VS), and one east of the town of Pescadero Dec. 26 (RSTh). A Virginia's Warbler appeared at Kewlin Park Dec. 22–23 (HMR). A **Cape May Warbler** at Chicken Ranch Beach

delighted Pt. Reyes CBC participants Dec. 19 (DDK). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** rested at Stinson Beach Nov. 29–Dec. 6 (KH, et al.). The Prairie Warbler at Princeton Inn was last reported Dec. 20 (PhR). Five Palm Warblers, nine Black-and-white Warblers, and three American Redstarts found the local area in December (mob). A MacGillivray's Warbler at Pilarcitos Creek Dec. 19 (RSTh), and two Wilson's Warblers Dec. 19—one in Sebastopol Dec. 19 (RoM), and the other at Vision Creek (*fide* DWm)—are more unusual in winter.

A Summer Tanager at Corralitos Creek near Watsonville Community Hospital Dec. 5 (RAE), was near the same location where one occurred last year. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Chicken Ranch Beach Dec. 19 (DDK).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen at Princeton Marsh Dec. 19 (PJM, *fide* RSTh). Four Sharp-tailed Sparrows and fifteen Swamp Sparrows found wet locations, and fourteen White-throated Sparrows were recorded during the month (mob). A Lapland Longspur was found at Bayfront Park Dec. 3 (PJM). A Yellow-headed Blackbird in the small elephant enclosure at the Zoo brighted up the San Francisco CBC Dec. 28 (DPM). The continuing pair of Great-tailed Grackles were at San Francisco Aquatic Park Dec. 28 (BHo). A Northern Oriole was along Corralitos Creek Dec. 5 (RAE), and another, a "Bullock's," was at the Golden Gate Park Dump Dec. 28 (*fide* ASH). Up to ten Cassin's Finches were seen along Livermore Mines Road Nov. 25 (RJR). Many Red Crossbills were noted in San Francisco, Alameda, and Santa Cruz Counties throughout the period, with large flocks of over 100 in San Fran-

cisco for the CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* ASH). One Evening Grosbeak was found at El Granada on the Crystal Springs CBC Dec. 19 (PJM), and some were also seen at Olema Ranch Campground, Marin Co. Dec. 18 (RS, *fide* DWm).

Observers

Roger Alexander, Peter Allen, John Asher, Stephen F. Bailey, Bruce Barrett (BBrr), Andy Crater, Maryann Danielson (MDa), J. Mike Danzenbaker, Gary Deyes, Eliabeth Dickey (EDi), Al M. Eisner, Richard A. Erickson, Gil Ewing (GEw), Leora R. Feeney, Shawneen E. Finnegan, Alice Geffen (AGe), Wilma Ghiorso, Michael T. Green, Marguerite B. Gross, Keith Hansen, Jay Harlow, Rob Hayden (RHs), Bob Hogan (BHo), Alan S. Hopkins, Woody Hotz, Steve N. G. Howell, Anthony H. Jackson, Robert Jarrell, Tom Johnson (ToJ), Durrell D. Kapan, Dan Keller, Clay Kempf (CKf), Bruce LaBar, Bill Lenarz, Robin Leong (RbL), Donna Lion, Michael J. Lippsmeyer, John S. Luther, Roger Marlowe (RoM), Peter J. Metropulos, Mark C. Miller, Joseph Morlan, Daniel P. Murphy, Kent Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John E. Parmeter, Larry Parmeter, Mike Perrone, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (SE Farallon Report thanks to Phil Henderson), John Poole (JPo), Lina J. Prairie, Peter Pyle, Harold M. Reeve, Robert J. Richmond, Don Roberson, Phil Rostron (PhR), Virginia Schoener, Barb Sharfenstein (BSh), Shearwater Journeys, Kim Shelmerdyne, Anne Smith, Scott Smithson (SSm), Rich Stallcup, William Stanley, Maury Stern, Ron S. Thorn (RSTh), Kent Van Vuren, Anna Wilcox (AWi), Katherine S. Wilson, David Wimpfheimer (DWm), David G. Yee.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288 or 524-5592.

—HELEN GREEN

Observations Editor
2001 Yolo Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94707

CONSERVATION NOTES

ACID RAIN

Every time it rains or snows Audubon volunteers are checking the pH of precipitation.

The message to date: Acid Rain does indeed fall in large portions of this country. While pH varies by place and by rainstorm, there are a lot of low readings out there. The problem will not go away. By making all of us aware that rain contains more than we think, the Audubon Citizens Acid Rain Monitoring Network is doing much to galvanize the political will to pass effective acid rain legislation.

ACTION FOR INITIATIVE

The tobacco industry is prepared to spend about \$16 million to defeat an initiative sponsored by the Cancer Society, the Lung Association, the Heart Association, the California Medical Association and others. What are you willing to **DO** to assure its passage? The Coalition for a Healthy California needs your help in supporting this initiative. It is the most extensive effort ever made to reduce the health and economic impacts of smoking.

The initiative will accomplish the following:

1) increase the California tax on cigarettes from \$.10 to \$.35 and place an equivalent tax on other tobacco products.

2) use the new revenues to reduce tobacco use among children, support medical research into cancer, heart and lung disease, and aid low income victims of tobacco related and other diseases.

The following are the reasons the initiative is needed:

1) smoking is responsible for 80% of chronic lung disease deaths, 85% of lung cancer deaths, and 30% of all heart disease deaths.

2) adults don't make the decision to smoke, children do: 60% of smokers start smoking by the time they are 14, 90% before they are 20. Once started, the addiction is very hard to overcome.

3) we all pay, whether we smoke or not: the estimated annual cost to our nation is \$65 billion, \$22 billion in health care and \$43 billion in lost productivity—everyone's taxes, insurance and product costs are higher because of smoking.

4) increasing the tax will help: an estimated 300,000 Californians will be discouraged from smoking, including 80,000 teenagers.

5) the \$600–700 million generated by the tax will be used to reduce the economic and health burdens of smoking.

If you can help, telephone your nearest American Lung Association office for information.

ALASKA'S RAIN FOREST FOR PULP

Still largely wild and pristine, North America's last temperate rain forest blankets the rugged coastline of Alaska's southeastern panhandle. Incorporated into the 17-million acre Tongass National Forest, spruce and hemlock often 800 years old shelter an

area of incredibly abundant wildlife and unparalleled scenery.

Despite these rare qualities, current federal law and Forest Service contracts with two southeast Alaska pulp mills mean the continuing destruction of hundreds of thousands of acres of virgin timber. Ironically, American taxpayers fund the chainsawing. Because of the terms of their 50-year contracts, stumpage rates paid by the mills are only a fraction of the timber's value. In addition, the federal government annually spends around \$50 million to build logging roads and prepare sales for the two mills, one of which is wholly Japanese-owned.

In May hearings, Audubon vice-president Brock Evans called upon Congress to support legislation, the Tongass Timber Reform Act, that would eliminate the subsidy and 4.5 billion board feet per decade cutting goal established under the Lands Act in 1980. The timber program resulting from these unusual provisions, according to Evans, destroys crucial habitat for a range of wildlife including grizzly bear, Sitka black-tailed deer, and five species of salmon. In addition, the thousands of acres of clearcuts and hundreds of miles of logging roads adversely affect the region's healthier resource industries—commercial fishing and tourism.

Despite these devastating environmental consequences, Evans noted that the government has spent over \$287 million on the Tongass timber program since 1982. In return, the Forest Service has collected only \$32 million in timber receipts. Because of the combined fiscal and environmental loss, Evans asked Congress to cancel the Forest Service's unprecedented 50-year contracts with the two mills and to consider adding several prime scenic and

wildlife areas to existing wilderness.

"Southeast Alaska is probably the least known part of that magnificent state, and yet, in the opinion of many—certainly myself—it is probably the most beautiful," Evans said, "It is clear that the economic future of southeast Alaska lies not in heavily subsidized timber operations which continue to lose money and jobs. The future rather is in tourism and the fishing industry, and a timber industry geared to a local, not a world, economy."

About half of the largest, oldest trees still stand on the Tongass. **Virtually none of them are protected in wilderness.** Your help is needed to ensure that some are protected for future generations. *Please write your Representative and Senators and urge them to:*

- 1) cosponsor the Tongass Timber Reform Act (H.R. 1516 in the House, S. 708 in the Senate); and
- 2) support amendments that would terminate the 50-year contracts and incorporate critical areas of old-growth into existing Tongass wilderness.

BACK YARD BIRDER

Do birds live to eat or do they eat to live? It would seem to be the former since only reproductive behavior interrupts feeding activity. Even migratory birds stop to feed.

Since birds eat virtually anything organic, as well as objects such as pebbles and shells, they are invaluable as toxic-free pest controllers. (Now, if we could only find a biodegradable substitute for plastics before we literally bury the earth with them!) Beginning with one-celled protozoans eaten by wild ducks, birds move up the food chain to such dietary delicacies as

jellyfishes, marine worms and leeches, earthworms and, the largest group of all, arthropods (insects, crustaceans and arachnids). Also on the menu for some birds are mollusks (snails, slugs and clams, e.g.) and vertebrates such as fishes, frogs, lizards, snakes, and mammals, large and small. Let us not forget that birds also eat other birds! And then there's the world of plants. Only fungi are little eaten by birds.

As a group, birds have a relatively high temperature with an accompanying high metabolic rate. Therefore they must eat more food in proportion to their weight than most animals (except the famous shrew). The general rule is that the smaller the bird, the more it eats in proportion to its weight. e.g. The hummingbird consumes a mere half ounce of food but that is twice its weight; the eagle may eat only a quarter of its weight but that translates to 2 pounds of meat! This means that a hummer will spend most of its waking hours searching for nectar and insects. All birds must eat more during cold weather—a good reason to keep your feeders full during wintertime.

The variation in a bird's diet depends on its species, its age, where it lives and

what foods are available. One example is the seed-eaters such as finches, which feed their baby birds a diet of 80% protein (insects) to give them a fast start in life. However, there are some species which are so picky that they jeopardize their very existence. Limpkins and Everglade Kites, for instance, prefer fresh-water snails to all other foods. Most birds have food preferences but will eat a variety if hungry. The Osprey adore fish above all else but will take small mammals and birds if starving. And then there are the insect-eaters who migrate, eating one type of insect on their winter range and another during the summer. A different strategy is used by birds who stay in one spot year-round, such as woodpeckers, who shift from largely insect diets to fruits and seeds with seasonal changes. And finally there are gulls which will always flourish because they will eat virtually anything!

As a birdwatcher all the information you can learn about a particular bird will help you to locate and identify it. Knowing a bird's dietary needs is an invaluable tool to help you find the proper habitat for that bird.

—MEG PAULETICH

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED GREAT OUTDOORS FAIR

Volunteers will be able to see the *Chronicle Great Outdoors Adventure Fair* free in exchange for a few hours at the GGAS booth at the Fair. It will be held at the Concourse of Show Place Square in San Francisco from noon Friday, March 4 until 9 p.m. and on Satur-

day and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$7. Please call 843-2222 to schedule your time at the GGAS booth. The show features hands-on demonstrations and workshops and exhibits related to all sorts of non-motorized outdoor recreation. Come give us a hand, please.

PRBO RESEARCH PROJECT

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory has announced a comprehensive research project "The Role of the San Francisco Bay in Supporting Shorebirds of the Pacific Flyway.

Because the wildlife habitat is being degraded both by pollutants in the water and development of the shore and wetlands areas critical to shorebirds and waterfowl are fast disappearing. Increased fresh water diversions proposed for San Francisco Bay may reduce the rich variety of habitats for shorebirds here. Climate projections predict a substantial sea level rise in the next fifty years. What will be the consequences? And as mitigation and restoration projects are attempted, what key habitat requirements need attention?

PRBO'S NATURAL EXCURSIONS

The brochure announcing offerings for 1988 winter and summer with highlights of 1989 has just come in. You may obtain a copy by phoning PRBO (868-1221), but here are some early items: a GULL WEEKEND with Rich Stallcup March 12-13, OWLS with Rich the evening of March 25, and a SPRING IN CALIFORNIA'S DESERTS with Jules Evens Apr. 10-16. For details call PRBO.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH GUIDE?

The Ranch, our ranch, is offering a six-session training program for ranch guides, beginning Feb. 6.

Each session is six hours long and will be given during a six week period. The course will prepare volunteer guides to answer weekend visitors'

questions and to accompany them on walking tours of the preserve. Professionals in biology and botany will provide the training, which includes information about the plant and animal life in the lagoon, pond, meadow and forest habitats. Volunteers are expected to work a minimum of four days over a period of two seasons; the 1988 season is from March 5 through July 10.

Ranch naturalist/educator Anne Monk says "We've discovered that volunteers receive a lot of satisfaction working outdoors and helping conserve our natural resources, as well as sharing this knowledge with others."

Available to volunteers are free on-going education programs, discounts at the ACR bookstore and seminars, and attendance at various Ranch events. The Ranch has long had a volunteer council to guide school children on tours throughout the Ranch on weekdays. The ranch guide program initiated last year, is designed to offer guide service to the 500-600 weekend visitors to the Ranch. To register or for information, call 868-0611 or 868-9244.

USERS FEES FOR WILDLIFE AREAS

A one dollar user fee has been established at four state wildlife areas. To help defray operating costs adults age 18 or over who are not licensed anglers, hunters or trappers will be required to pay the fee. The four areas are Gray Lodge, Los Banos, San Jacinto and Imperial. Signs are posted directing visitors to take and fill out an envelope, insert one dollar per adult visitor, tear off the stub (providing a record of payment), and insert the envelope in the "iron ranger", a waist-high cylindrical slotted metal container. Visitors must keep the stub while in the area.

TWO GOOD FAMILY DAY TRIPS

In the holiday season we visited Lake San Antonio to see wintering Bald Eagles one day and on another took a drive through the wildlife preserve off Highway 5 between Stockton and Sacramento to see Sandhill Cranes. Both were very satisfying family excursions.

The boat trip on lake San Antonio, operated by the Monterey County Park Dept., costs eight dollars per person and requires advance reservation (and *warm* clothing). It goes, rain or shine, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday until March 6th at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. for a two hour circle of the lake past areas from which visitors on foot are excluded for the benefit of the wintering raptors. The Sunday morning trip leaves one hour earlier, includes a brunch and costs \$17 per person. Reservations may be made by phone, (408) 472-2311). Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, occasionally an Osprey, and many water and shorebirds are usually seen on the trip. On the drive in we saw two Roadrunners.

One reaches Lake San Antonio by taking Jolon Rd. (County Rd. G14) at King City. Continue to San Antonio Rd. which takes you to the Park Headquarters on the South Shore. Plan to arrive at least half an hour before the scheduled time as there is a slide presentation and talk by the ranger preceding each trip. The ranger on the trip we took was Jim Davis, Park Superintendent, a genial, enthusiastic and knowledgeable host.

Group trips can be arranged Monday through Thursday at \$6 per person for thirty or more; school groups will be \$4 for forty or more persons.

The trip to see Sandhill Cranes re-

quires no reservations. Exit Hwy. 5 at Twin Cities Rd. to the east and procede to Franklin Blvd., turn left and drive to Desmond Rd. Take Desmond to Bruceville Rd. Along Desmond look for cranes on both sides of the road. Along Bruceville Rd. look for wintering Tundra Swans to the east. We saw many raptors in this area as well. Continue along Twin Cities Road to the east to Christensen Rd. and turn right, following it to New Hope Rd. Here we saw a profusion of Great, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, Yellow-billed Magpies, and an occasional Great Blue Heron, a total of twenty-three species in two hours. New Hope Rd. returns you to Hwy. 5. If you aren't exhausted take Thornton Rd. to Woodbridge Rd. and continue west, where there may be cranes to the south along Woodbridge. I am told there is a self-guided nature trail off Franklin Blvd. (watch for sign on the right; we missed it.) For information, call Tom Griggs at (916) 868-6982. He says the nature trail is good for half a day's birding, so we plan to go back soon.

—EDITOR



Give a few dollars to the Rare and Endangered Species Preservation Program. This year it is Line 45 of your California tax form. Your donation—deductible on State and Federal itemized returns—will be used for wildlife preservation throughout California. It is a good program. Please help if you can.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch
Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach (415) 868-9244
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education
Under Joint Sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone,
Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies
Rick Baird, Chairman

Substantial gifts from three New York foundations have been received to benefit the Bouverie Audubon Preserve. The Howard Gilman Foundation, the Richard Lounsbery Foundation and the Josephine L. Hopkins Foundation have all given generously to ACR.

The Bolinas Preserve will open officially for visitors on Saturday, March 12. There will be the annual Work Day on Sunday, March 6 to prepare for the opening. As usual volunteers are needed and should report by 9 a.m. to Picher Canyon. Lunch will be served. If you plan to help out please call the ranch at (415) 868-9244 so there will be a place at the table for you.

Anne Monk has announced that Dr. Kevin Podian, the internationally known University of California paleontologist, will speak at the ranch this spring on evolution. The date will be announced in *The Gull* next month.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

March 31–April 2 (Easter Week)
The popular Baskets, Bunnies 'n Hot

Cross Buns will be held. It is a family weekend at Bolinas to weave baskets, color eggs and make bread climaxed by a **GIANT EGG HUNT** Saturday noon. No adults admitted without a child. This fills up early so make your reservations now. Anne Monk and John Kipping will be in charge.

April 10–16 The outstanding Shaw/West Photography Workshop will again be held in Volunteer Canyon. The work of John Shaw and Larry West can be found in Audubon, National Wildlife, Natural History and National Geographic magazines as well as other significant publications in the natural history field. This week of lectures and field work is suggested for the serious amateur photographer. This course will fill quickly so make your plans now.

April 16 This is the date of the fifth annual "Moon Spring, a Banquet for the Senses", a wildflower walk on the Bouverie Preserve conducted by Phyllis Ellman and John Peterson. To sign up for any of these three events call (415) 868-9244.

Saturday Community Hikes at the Bouverie Preserve will be held on March 12 and 26 and in April on the 9th and 23rd from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Space is limited, so call early. (707) 938-4554.

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keep 'em alive!**

The American Peregrine Falcon
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— SECOND CLASS MATTER



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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.